

the
PULSE
THE DSBD NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2025



small business
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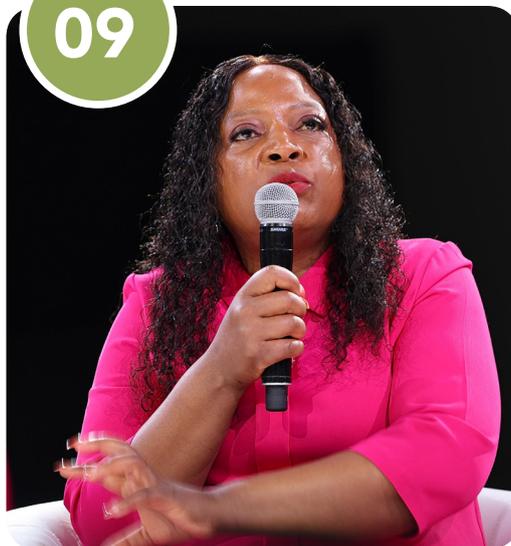
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AFS	Annual Financial Survey
APP	Annual Performance Plan
ASGISA	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa
B-BBEE	Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CIPC	Companies and Intellectual Property Commission
CDS	Co-operatives Development Strategy
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CDSP	Co-operatives Development Support Programme
CBDA	Co-operatives Bank Development Agency
DFIs	Development Funding Institutions
DDM	District Development Model
DPME	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
DSBD	Department of Small Business Development
DPSA	Department of Public Service and Administration
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
dtic	The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
DBE	Department of Basic Education
EDD	Economic Development Department
ESIEID	Economic Sectors, Investment, Employment, and Infrastructure Development
E-governance	Electronic Governance
ERRP	Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
HSSP	Hospitality Sector Support Plan
IBDS	Incubation and Business Development Services
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFC	International Finance Corporation

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ISPESE	Integrated Strategy for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprises
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprises
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NIBUS	National Informal Business Upliftment Strategy
NEDLAC	National Economic Development and Labour Council
NDP	National Development Plan
NISED	National Integrated Small Enterprise Development
NSEA	National Small Enterprise Act
NT	National Treasury
OCSLA	Office of the Chief State Law Adviser
PSC	Public Service Commission
PAYE	Pay As You Earn
PoA	Programme of Action
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
SAMAF	South African Micro Finance Apex Fund
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SBC	Small Business Corporation
SBD	Small Business Development
SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Agency
SEFA	Small Enterprise Finance Agency
SEIF	Shared Economic Infrastructure Facility
SEIAS	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
SOE	State Owned Enterprises
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
TREP	Township and Rural Enterprise Programme
VAT	Value Added Tax
WOE	Women-Owned Enterprises.
WECONA	Women Economic National Assembly



The Department of Small Business Development and its agency, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) exists to champion the growth of small-scale businesses in South Africa.

To access DSBD economic success initiatives, stories and voila welcome to the world of successful entrepreneurship.



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World
**Mental
Health**

DAY

HAPPY
October

As we enter October, we take a moment to plan ahead and reflect on the significance of mental health, particularly for entrepreneurs. In South Africa, Mental Health Awareness Month is observed annually in October, with World Mental Health Day on 10 October.

This year's theme, 'Access and Inclusion: why community mental health is important', highlights that entrepreneurial journeys are inherently pressured. Founders often navigate uncertainty, financial stress, and leadership responsibilities. Just as we champion access to markets and finance, we must advocate for access to mental wellness support, recognising that business resilience begins with mental resilience.

Minister Ndabeni leads the fight against counterfeit goods, the promotion of international property rights and protection of culture and indigenous knowledge

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA



Through a structured programme of keynotes, panel discussions, live showcases, and exhibitions, the initiative aimed to deepen impact by tackling economic and cultural risks posed by counterfeit goods, piracy, and copyright infringements, broaden public engagement by creating an informative and accessible platform for communities, demonstrate SEDFA's commitment to inclusive economic participation and protection of authentic township creativity, engage women enterprises, associations, and formations to inform the design of the Women's Entrepreneurship Fund, and commemorate Heritage Month.

Enterprises in the creative sector, spanning fashion, music, film, and digital media, are rich in innovation and heritage but face the growing threat of counterfeit goods and piracy, eroding revenue, weakening consumer trust, and compromising competitiveness.

The outreach programme positioned SEDFA as an ecosystem enabler and coordinator for township enterprises in the creative sector, providing targeted awareness and support for businesses at various stages of their life cycle.

The Minister for Small Business Development Stella Tembisa Ndabeni has provided assurance that government policies will ensure South Africans benefit economically from the township and rural economies.

On 29 September 2025, Minister Stella Tembisa Ndabeni led the Heritage outreach event, hosted by the Department in Polokwane, Limpopo province.

This Heritage Month outreach event highlighted the fight against counterfeit goods while celebrating township-based enterprises' role in the creative sector, central to the theme 'Fight Against Counterfeit Goods: Protecting Creativity, Heritage and Township and Rural Economies.'

Following the Minister for Small Business Development's official unveiling of the Women's Fund in Mpumalanga, this event initiated provincial engagements, focusing on women enterprises in Limpopo.



The programme promoted public awareness and behavioural change in favour of authentic, proudly South African products, reinforcing government's township and village economies agenda while advancing national objectives of job creation, industrialisation, and global competitiveness. By linking heritage, creativity, and economic resilience, the programme strengthens SEDFA's mission to build a sustainable MSME ecosystem that is protected, empowered, and future-ready.

Through this initiative, MSME ecosystem partners will collaborate to create awareness around combating counterfeit goods, equip township-based enterprises with knowledge on IP protection, branding, and export readiness, showcase authentic township creativity through exhibitions and cultural performances, and facilitate dialogue between entrepreneurs, regulators, consumers, and government.

The event commemorated South Africa's diverse heritage through song, dance, poetry, cultural attire, and traditional food. Township enterprises will be empowered with practical knowledge on combating counterfeits, strengthening intellectual property protection, and enhancing branding.

During her address, Minister Ndabeni stated that DSBD is busy with several strategic initiatives and policy reforms. "We recently amended the National Small Enterprise Act and busy setting up the Office of the Small Enterprise Ombuds to address unfair practice including non-payment

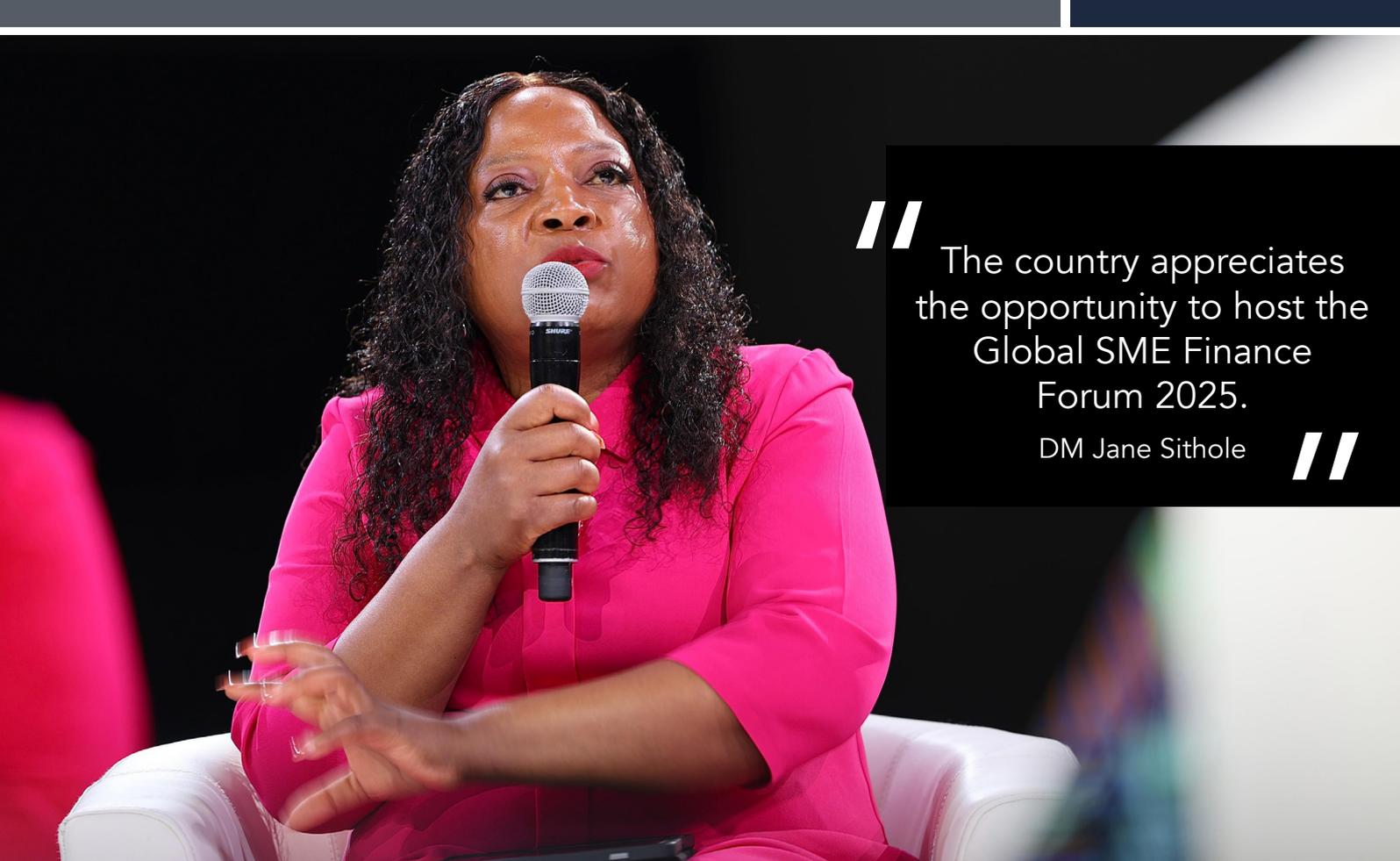
to MSMEs. We have developed a Business Licensing Policy together with the Business Licencing Amendment Bill to streamline business licencing processes. We have also developed a Township and Rural Economic Development and Revitalization Policy, which is intended to turn marginalized spatial economies into vibrant economies. We know the untapped creativity that exists in our townships and rural communities that just needs to be unlocked."

Minister Ndabeni underscored that "We have also just completed the National Entrepreneurship Strategy, as well as the Incubation and Business Development Services Policy to set standards for incubation and business development support."

"Over the last term of government, SEDFA disbursed R5.3 billion to 528,752 women-owned businesses across the country, through both Direct and Wholesale Lending channels. Of the total disbursements, R3.18 billion (or 60% of total disbursements) was disbursed to women-owned businesses operating the rural towns and villages, indicating our commitment to financial inclusion."

The gathering brought together key stakeholders in the creative industries including fashion, music and film to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing the creative sector. Enterprises in the creative sector spanning fashion, music, film, and digital media are particularly rich in innovation and heritage but face a growing threat, the proliferation of counterfeit goods and piracy, which erode revenue, weaken consumer trust, and compromise competitiveness.





“ The country appreciates the opportunity to host the Global SME Finance Forum 2025.
DM Jane Sithole ”

DSBD participated at the **2025 Global SME Finance Forum**

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA

The Global SME Finance Forum is the SME Finance Forum’s annual flagship event. Since its first edition in 2015, this acclaimed conference has showcased and shaped the latest innovations and best practices in SME Finance.

Developed under the G20 Brazilian Presidency and published in December 2024, the Action Plan builds on earlier findings and calls on governments to promote a robust enabling environment for MSME financing and provides recommendations to improve the effectiveness of financial interventions and mobilisation of private financing.

It is the world’s leading, technically oriented, geographically diverse platform focused solely on scaling SME financing. The Global Forum takes place in a different country each year, attracting C-level industry leaders from more than 80 countries, as well as leading policymakers and regulators. The Forum is known for bringing to the forefront key trends and innovations in the field, from examining the potential for bank-fintech partnerships back in 2015 when most were talking about bank-fintech competition, to exploring how

sustainable financing can be a driver of growth. This year’s themes include a discussion on Improving market access by SMEs, Developing entrepreneurial skills to youths and Access to funding and new financial instruments

The sessions examined successful implementations that reduce SME barriers to formal financial services, exploring design principles that serve micro-enterprises alongside large corporations. Discussions covered how open frameworks that enable fintech innovation while maintaining stability, governance models for cross-border interoperability, and integration of emerging technologies like AI and blockchain.

The conclave also addressed the role of development finance institutions in ensuring the adoption benefits underserved SME segments in emerging markets.

The Global SME Finance Forum 2025 used earth and seeds as symbolic elements to represent connection, growth, and global collaboration.

The three-day symposium focused mainly on the funding for small, medium enterprises (SMEs) and how it could be improved and stretched to reach even the remotest entrepreneurs in far flung corners of the world.

SMEs are the cornerstone for global economies and account for over two thirds of employment and play a vital role in job creation, economic resilience and poverty reduction.

South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025 presents a significant opportunity to set up a national dialogue amongst key role players in the informal sector to unpack best practices in supporting informal MSMEs and begin to chart a concrete and implementable informal sector support programme and kick-start a formal coordination mechanism for the informal MSME sector in South Africa.

This year's conference featured a series of high-level leadership dialogues focusing on enhancing SME resilience amid-global macroeconomic pressures, disruptions in trade, and persistent financing gaps through technology innovation, supportive policy frameworks, and public-private collaboration as well as the role of Digital Public Infrastructure in driving financial innovation.

This year's conference featured a series of high-level leadership dialogues focusing on enhancing SME resilience amid-global macroeconomic pressures, disruptions in trade, and persistent financing gaps through technology innovation, supportive policy frameworks, and public-private collaboration as well as the role of Digital Public Infrastructure in driving financial innovation.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are crucial for global economies, accounting for over two-thirds of employment and playing a vital role in job creation and economic resilience. However, they face persistent financing gaps that hinder their potential for inclusive growth.

To address these challenges, the SME Finance Forum, managed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), hosted its annual flagship event, organised with strategic partner Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN), convening a diverse network of financial institutions, fintechs, and multilaterals. This three-day event featured thought-provoking discussions and interactive panels to explore strategies for enhancing SME access to finance, driving innovation, and fostering job creation and inclusive growth.





The SME Finance Forum's annual conference meets a critical need in the SME financing world: the need to bring together top decision-makers in a truly thoughtful way, where the International Finance Corporation's deep knowledge of players can be leveraged to help participants zero in on the partners who can best meet their needs. In most conferences, the search for the right partner is a "needle in a haystack" exercise. Not so at the Finance Forum and therein lies the magic.

"The country appreciates the opportunity to host the Global SME Finance Forum 2025. We view the Forum as an opportunity for global experts in MSME finance and financial inclusion, development finance institutions, MSME financiers, policy makers, regulators, fintech institutions, technology solutions leaders to converge share best practices and exchange insights that will shape the future trajectory on MSME access to finance matters," said Deputy Minister Jane Sithole

Deputy Minister Sithole added that "to demonstrate commitment to the MSME access to finance agenda, the Department of Small Business Development through its agency, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDA) is the Gold Sponsor

for the Global SME Finance Forum 2025. The value of SEDA Gold sponsorship equates to R2 000 000. The global banks, financial institutions, and technology players converged with SMEs to discuss critical regulatory frameworks, guidance, and industry best practices that remain fragmented across multiple databases.

SME Finance Forum and its partners gave extensive knowledge base which is most topical and reliable sources of data and information eliminating the information silos that have historically disadvantaged smaller institutions, enabling all players to make more informed decisions regardless of their size or resources.

The Forum Stage hosted leadership dialogues on strengthening SME resilience in turbulent economic times. The forum included G20 leaders, policymakers, and financial innovators as they discuss macroeconomic headwinds, trade disruptions, and financing gaps affecting small businesses globally. The sessions explored policy frameworks that enhance financial inclusion, regulatory approaches supporting innovation, and technological solutions bridging the SME financing gap.



DSBD Hosts 2025 Public Service Women Management Week Event in Pretoria

BY: PERCIVAL MTOMBENI



The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) proudly hosted its 2025 Public Service Women Management Week (PSWMW) event on Wednesday, 27 August 2025 at the Casa Toscana Lodge in Lynwood, Pretoria, Gauteng province. The event brought together senior women leaders across the Department in a powerful and inspiring day of reflection, strategy, and empowerment under the theme: "From Influence to Impact: Senior Women Leaders as Catalysts for Collective Success."

The event was graced by the presence of the DSBD Director-General Ms. Thulisile Manzini, alongside Deputy Directors-General Ms. Qinisile Delwa and Ms. Yanga Tantsi, who collectively underscored the Department's commitment to women's leadership, empowerment, and gender equality.

The PSWMW initiative forms part of an annual government-wide observance during the last week of August, dedicated to advancing gender equity in the public service. Since its inception in 2008, this platform has served as a vital checkpoint for evaluating departmental progress on the 8-Principle Action Plan for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

Despite incremental progress across the public sector, women currently account for only 43%

of Senior Management Service (SMS) positions, indicating that more decisive action is needed to achieve the 50% equity target.

Ms Mbali Mbatha delivered a comprehensive progress report on the 8-Principle Action Plan, reviewing the DSBD's current positioning and focus areas. Her presentation offered insight into both challenges and enablers shaping leadership for women within the Department, with emotional intelligence emerging as a key competency for women in management roles.





The 2025 PSWMW event was not only a celebration of women in leadership but also a strategic milestone in DSBD's journey towards gender equity and transformation. It offered a powerful reminder that real impact begins when influence is used to uplift, empower, and create opportunities for others.

As the Department looks ahead, the focus remains on accelerating progress towards its equity targets, building enabling environments, and ensuring that senior women leaders continue to serve as catalysts for collective success, not only within the DSBD, but across the broader public service landscape.



She elaborated on all eight principles: transformation for non-sexism, establishing a policy environment, meeting equity targets, creating an enabling environment, gender mainstreaming, empowerment, resource allocation and accountability, as well as monitoring, and evaluation.

Each principle was discussed in relation to DSBD's strategic goals, encouraging attendees to align their leadership actions with the Department's broader transformation agenda.

In a deeply engaging keynote address, Ms Teleni Ntabeni, Executive Manager for Corporate Services at Magalies Water, spoke passionately about the importance of purpose-driven leadership. She challenged women leaders to look inward, embrace their identity, and unlock their full potential through confidence and self-awareness.

Her message resonated with many in attendance, encouraging a shift from traditional leadership models to more authentic, empowered, and value-based leadership styles.



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We will support women entrepreneurs with market access through annual women-focused trade missions, networking sessions.

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Minister Ndabeni graced the official launch of the Global Business Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in KwaZulu Natal

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA

The Minister for Small Business Development, Stella Tembisa Ndabeni presented a keynote address in Durban at the official launch of the Global Business Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBWCCI), an organization that amplifies the voices of over a million women and gender-diverse entrepreneurs and self-employed professionals.

This movement aims to equip, empower, and connect women entrepreneurs in South Africa and globally. The initiative provides millions of jobs, drives industrialization, sustains economies, and introduces innovative solutions to pressing challenges.

The Global Business Women's Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to driving change by prioritizing women's needs, voices, and aspirations in decision-making processes. By establishing a specialized platform, cultivating an inclusive ecosystem that empowers women-led enterprises

to flourish, providing access to mentorship, funding, and policies tailored to women's real-life experiences.

GBWCCI addresses systemic challenges faced by women in business by offering targeted initiatives in financial literacy, mentorship, gender equity, and advocacy, fostering collaboration and creating a thriving ecosystem for women's growth, both locally and globally.

The Minister provided a comprehensive overview of the plans in progress and those already being implemented to empower small and micro businesses.

Ndabeni elaborated on the role of DSBD in facilitating the growth of emerging businesses by removing obstacles and providing necessary support to micro enterprises, particularly those owned by youth and women.

She emphasized that the department is co-creating a conducive environment within MSMEs and cooperatives, emerging from the ecosystem to drive change in society, addressing financial constraints on small businesses, developing economic transformation, focusing on apex priorities such as the Township and Rural Enterprise Programme and other programmes.

"We will provide 560,000 MSMEs with pre-investment support, including entrepreneurship training, incubation, formalisation, and assistance with financial applications. We will provide 180,000 MSMEs with post-investment support, including coaching and mentoring, business skills training, and contract management to safeguard investments."

"We are also creating a more enabling eco-system for MSME growth and sustainability. We have developed a Red-Tape Reduction Framework and Cabinet has just approved our Business Licensing Bill for publication for public consultation. We have a variety of financial instruments for entrepreneurs and MSMEs across different segments and sectors," Minister said.

"We took a decision as the DSBD Portfolio to establish a Women's Fund, initially capitalized at R300 million but growing top over R700 million over the MTEF. Through this Fund we will support

the establishment and growth of sustainable businesses owned by women, ensuring their financial independence and long-term success."

Minister further stated that "We will support these women entrepreneurs with market access through annual women-focused trade missions, networking sessions. We will focus on sector specific support that women require- whether it be in manufacturing, construction, mining, ICT, the green economy, construction, retail, tourism or other services."

Fawzia Peer, Founder at GBWCCI said "Our dynamic network spans industries and borders, supporting women from startups to multinational companies with visibility, trade opportunities, and strategic partnerships. This is just the beginning. At GBWCCI, we unite professionals and business to drive economic development and build a more inclusive and prosperous South Africa."

"Our dynamic network spans industries and borders, supporting women from startups to multinational companies with visibility, trade opportunities, and strategic partnerships. This is just the beginning. At GBWCCI, we unite professionals and business to drive economic development and build a more inclusive and prosperous South Africa," added Peer.





Minister Ndabeni delivered a keynote address at the sod turning ceremony in Kwaggafontein

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA

The Minister for Small Business Development, Stella Tembisa Ndabeni, delivered a keynote address at the turf cutting ceremony in Kwaggafontein on 28 August 2025. The Food Square marking a key milestone as a major development in the region's food security and economic growth highlights the significant contribution of diligent farmers and their vital role in the economy. The day also served as an opportunity to express appreciation for the farmers and cooperatives.

The session focused on recognising the essential role MSMEs play in the ecosystem, underscoring the significance of transformation, economic inclusion and strengthening of entrepreneurship ecosystem, forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders in pursuit of a growing and sustainable small business sector.

The event aimed to establish collaborative relationships between the local government sphere and national government, supporting MSMEs in rural areas and enhancing their participation in the broader economy.

The initiative of the Kwaggafontein Food Square was born after a close co-operation between the Department of Small Business Development, Small Enterprise Development

Agency and Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency and various industrial players and local technology heavyweight players. The primary objective of this development was to provide township-based entrepreneurs, farmers with business development support.

MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs welcomed the guests and stakeholders. She spoke highly of DSDB initiatives in empowering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and promised to provide her support to the centre as it will help in equipping and develop the rural population of Kwaggafontein. MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi further stated that the residents must make open small businesses to enhance their lives and improve on business skills to empower more generations to come.

Minister Ndabeni emphasised that the department's mandate is to develop and support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Cooperatives. She emphasized the importance of social compact in such a manner that entrepreneurs must be given all the support they need and be included in the value chain.

“We said 30% towards township and rural-owned businesses and we are restructuring this to 67% which must be spent on equipment, infrastructure, and other requirements for the businesses.”

Minister Ndabeni reiterated that the present administration had set to build 100 incubators by the end of next year, but it had already exceeded the number by 10 incubators to a total of 110 incubators.

“We have approved 11 for this financial year, this shows that by March we will have about 121 incubators. The department is taking a different direction to bring back innovation,” she added.

Minister Ndabeni emphasized the need to invest in skills development of young people to achieve economic growth and create job opportunities.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams made emphasis on the National Development Plan and its importance of simplifying processes for small businesses to thrive” The National Development Plan is unequivocal about the importance and centrality of small business in job creation and the growth of our economy. Investment in small businesses is not an option, but an economic imperative.”

Minister Ndabeni emphasised that “Both developed and under-developed countries regard SMMEs as an engine for economic development. South Africa is no exception. We see SMMEs as a solution to poverty and unemployment,” Minister Ndabeni concluded.





Women in Business Digital Skills Programme Equips Entrepreneurs for the Future Economy

BY: TAMRY ESIRI

The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), together with its agency, the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA), joined Huawei and the Henley Business School Africa for the Women in Business Digital Skills Training Programme, which was held on 29 August 2025 in Rivonia, Johannesburg, Gauteng province.

The event brought together women entrepreneurs, leaders, and industry experts to equip participants with vital digital and leadership skills needed to thrive in today's rapidly evolving economy.

Leadership Advisor at @2Connect, Ms. Christine Williams, facilitated the day's training and inspired participants to reflect deeply on their roles as women leaders. "Today is all about being continuously curious about what we are consciously creating as the best version of ourselves, in which we can positively contribute to the systems that we are part of," she said. Her words set the tone for a day that encouraged women to embrace curiosity, innovation, and intentional growth.

The highlight of the day was the keynote address by DSBD Director-General (DG), Ms. Thulisile Manzini, who shared the Department's commitment to empowering women through technology and entrepreneurship. "As the Department of Small Business Development, we understand that empowering women in technology is not a

simple matter of fairness. It's a strategic economic investment. Women constitute more than half of South Africa's population. To exclude them is to exclude more than half of our nation's potential for innovation, productivity, and growth," she said.

The DG further highlighted the tangible results of DSBD's efforts, noting, "Empowered women strengthen households, uplift communities, and contribute to building a more resilient economy. We have seen through our work with SEDFA, our entity. In the past year alone, more than half of all non-financial support provided by the Department went to women entrepreneurs."

During her address, the DG also mentioned the launch of the Women's Fund, a new initiative aimed at supporting the establishment and growth of sustainable women-owned businesses. The fund is set to play a critical role in ensuring women's financial independence and long-term success.

The day closed with a celebratory certificate handover, giveaways, and networking over sundowners, leaving participants motivated and connected.

Through its participation, DSBD reaffirmed its role in building an inclusive economy by equipping women entrepreneurs with digital skills and support needed to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



DSBD and Partners Launch the GwaliSA Repackaging Programme at Alex Mall

BY: TAMRY ESIRI

This past Women’s Month, stakeholders gathered at Alex Mall to witness the launch of the GwaliSA Repackaging Programme. The Department of Small Business Development, in partnership with GIZ, Plastics SA, ICLEI and social entrepreneur Miles Kubheka, came together to launch this initiative, which illustrates how communities can drive circular, sustainable change.

Derived from the isiZulu word for “refill,” GwaliSA is more than a recycling pilot, it’s a community-centered system designed to reduce household costs, limit plastic waste, and empower local women. By encouraging the use, return, and reuse of durable containers, GwaliSA challenges traditional single-use packaging models and fosters both a circular economy and economic opportunity.

GwaliSA works by providing affordable and flexible purchasing. Customers can buy food and household essentials in small, manageable quantities. They can bring their own containers or use those provided to encourage reuse.

Speaking at the launch of the GwaliSA Repackaging Programme, DSBD Chief Director for IGR and Business Efficiencies Ms. Nomvula Makgotlho said, “As the Department of Small Business Development, we are excited to be part of this project. A lot of the money we pay

as citizens is for what our food is contained in, and the brand of the product. People need food and we are encouraged by the launch of this programme, especially during Women’s Month where many women are responsible for getting food for their families.”

Her words captured the essence of the project such as practical savings, sustainable habits, and gender-responsive impact which are all grounded in resilience and community leadership.

Programme Director, Miles Kubheka, encouraged everyone present to remember that “fixing a big problem needs to start from the ground up.” This ethos is at the heart of the GwaliSA model: locally adapted, community driven, and practical in purpose.

The launch of the GwaliSA Repackaging Programme is a milestone in South Africa’s journey towards circular economies that serve both people and the planet. Looking ahead, GwaliSA plans to scale its impact by deepening habits and measuring outcomes such as waste reduction, greenhouse gas emissions savings and household financial relief. What began as a pilot in one township now stands as a replicable, community-led example of how circular systems can thrive in informal urban settings.



Empowering Women in Business: Diamond Ladies Business Expo Shines in Pretoria

BY: CLEMENT MOAGA

The Diamond Ladies Business Expo, held on August 30, 2025, in Pretoria, was a resounding success, bringing together women entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders from various industries. The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) participated in this premier platform to showcase women-led businesses, encourage networking, and provide access to business development resources.

The expo embodied the spirit of women's empowerment, offering a supportive environment where attendees could share knowledge, experiences, and ideas. Through keynote speeches, workshops, and exhibitions, participants gained

valuable insights into the latest trends and best practices in business.

The expo highlighted innovation, leadership, and economic inclusion through a carefully curated program. The event drew a diverse group of attendees, including business owners, industry leaders, investors, and aspiring entrepreneurs, offering ample opportunities for networking and collaboration. By promoting entrepreneurship among women, the expo contributed to the growth and development of women's entrepreneurship in the region, empowering female business leaders across industries.

Mr. Noko Manyelo from the DSBD Communication Management Unit spoke about the Small Enterprise Manufacturing Support Programme (SEMSP), highlighting its aim to support small-scale manufacturers and bridge the gap between them and larger markets.



“SEMSP is designed to support small-scale manufacturers, particularly in townships, rural towns, and villages. It aims to grow and develop the manufacturing sector through investment in new or expansion manufacturing projects, create and sustain employment, encourage transformation through supporting enterprises owned by Black persons, Women, Youth, and People with Disabilities. It also promotes localisation through the use of locally produced inputs/raw materials and machinery directly related to production,” Manyelo said.

“Through the Small Enterprise Manufacturing Support Programme, we aim to bridge the gap between small-scale manufacturers and larger markets. By providing access to funding, training, and market opportunities, we can help small businesses scale up their operations and become competitive players in the manufacturing sector,” Manyelo said.

Manyelo also emphasized the importance of such events saying “The Department of Small Business Development is committed to supporting small,

medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) through various initiatives, including business infrastructure support, digital platforms, and sector-focused incubation programs.”

Ms. Zikhona Ajab, a leading entrepreneurial strategist at Revoobit, emphasized the importance of collaboration and collective genius in driving impact and success. “This programme is carefully crafted to ignite inspiration, spark meaningful connections, and propel your ventures forward. We will explore cutting-edge strategies, share groundbreaking insights, and co-create solutions that will reshape the future of business and entrepreneurship. Let us embark on this transformative journey together, harnessing the power of collaboration and collective genius to drive impact and success,” Ajab said.

Mr. Witness Zulu, a seasoned network marketer and business coach, shared his insights on building a successful business, providing a valuable lesson for entrepreneurs: “A leopard eats by spots,” meaning success comes gradually through consistent effort and perseverance.

The Diamond Ladies Business Expo demonstrated the power of women supporting women in business. By fostering connections, sharing knowledge, and promoting innovation, the event contributed to the growth and development of women’s entrepreneurship in the region. The success of the expo sets a promising precedent for future events, promoting women’s endeavours and creating opportunities for collaboration and growth.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Prioritising Early Detection and Care

BY: JANE MOSHALA KOLANYANE

October is recognised globally as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to highlighting the impact of this disease and encouraging conversations that can save lives. While awareness has grown over the years, breast cancer continues to be one of the most common cancers among women, and too many lives are still lost because it is detected too late.

Breast cancer does not always show symptoms in its earliest stages, which is why early detection is so important. Regular self-examinations, clinical check-ups, and mammograms remain the most effective tools in identifying changes before they become more serious. When breast cancer is detected early, treatment is often more successful, less invasive, and allows for a better quality of life.

Raising awareness is also about breaking the silence. Many women still feel uncomfortable discussing breast health or seeking medical help when they notice something unusual. By fostering open, supportive conversations, we can help reduce the stigma and encourage one another to take action sooner rather than later.

There are practical steps every woman can take:

- Know your body: Perform regular self-checks and pay attention to any changes in how your breasts look or feel.
- Seek professional care: Schedule clinical breast examinations and follow medical guidance about mammograms based on your age and risk factors.
- Stay informed: Learn the warning signs of breast cancer, such as lumps, changes in breast shape, dimpling of the skin, or unusual discharge.
- Support each other: Remind friends, family, and colleagues to prioritise their health and go for regular screenings.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is not only about education but also about empowerment. It is a reminder that prioritising health is an act of strength, and taking small steps today can make a life changing difference tomorrow. Each conversation, each screening, and each show of support adds up to a stronger fight against breast cancer.

Quick Guide: What You Should Know About Breast Cancer

Warning Signs

- Lumps or thickening in the breast or underarm.
- Visible changes in breast size or shape.
- Dimpling of the skin or nipple changes.

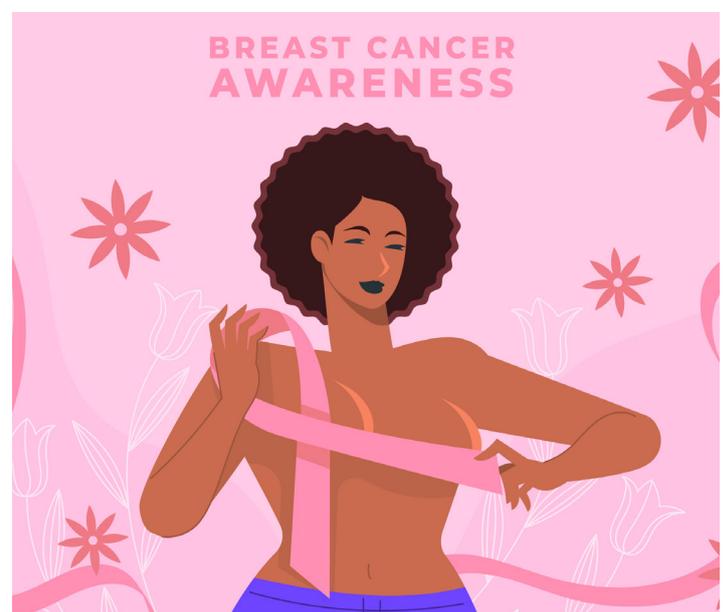
Risk Factors

- Family history of breast cancer.
- Growing older.
- Certain lifestyle factors (diet, alcohol, lack of exercise).

Self-Examination Basics

- Look for visible changes in the mirror.
- Use circular motions with your fingers to feel the entire breast.
- Repeat monthly, at the same time in your cycle.
- Screening Matters
- Clinical breast exams during regular health check-ups.
- Mammograms as recommended by your healthcare provider.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is about more than information, it is a reminder that health is something we must actively protect. Each of us has a role to play, whether by checking ourselves regularly, sharing knowledge, or encouraging a loved one to go for a screening. Awareness leads to action, and action leads to stronger, healthier communities.



Empowering MSMEs: Market Expansion Workshop in Durban Aims to Drive Growth

BY: CLEMENT MOAGA

The Department of Small Business Development, in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) and KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), recently hosted the Market Expansion Workshop at the Durban Botanic Gardens on 10 September 2025. This event aimed to empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Cooperatives by providing them with the knowledge, resources, and networks needed to strengthen their position in domestic and international markets.

MSMEs play a vital role in South Africa's economy, driving employment, innovation, and growth. However, many still face challenges in accessing markets, which hinders their full potential. The workshop focused on building partnerships between MSMEs and the retail sector, sharing practical insights on buyer requirements, and identifying solutions to overcome market entry challenges. The workshop brought together MSMEs, retailers, wholesalers, and other stakeholders to create opportunities for collaboration and growth. By empowering small enterprises to expand sustainably, this initiative contributes directly to job creation, innovation, and economic transformation in South Africa.

Opening the workshop, Ms Portia Kekana, Director: Market Access Support said "MSMEs are the backbone of South Africa's economy—creating jobs, driving innovation, and fuelling inclusive growth. Yet, limited market access continues to be one of the biggest barriers preventing small enterprises from realising their full potential.

Through today's Market Expansion Workshop in Durban, the Department of Small Business Development and its agency, the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA), are working to change this by providing entrepreneurs with the knowledge, resources, and networks needed to strengthen their position in both domestic and international markets.

The workshop focuses on building partnerships between MSMEs and the retail sector, sharing practical insights on buyer requirements, and identifying solutions to overcome market entry challenges. By empowering small enterprises to expand sustainably, this initiative contributes directly to job creation, innovation, and economic transformation in South Africa," Kekana said.



Mr. Thula Mkhwanazi, Regional Manager of SEDFA in KwaZulu-Natal spoke about business development support rendered by the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) said "SEDFA is committed to providing comprehensive support to small enterprises. We offer financial solutions, such as credit guarantees and retail finance, as well as non-financial support, including business development services and technology upgrades. Our goal is to empower small businesses to thrive and contribute to economic growth," Mr. Thula Mkhwanazi.

Unlocking market access is essential for the long-term growth and sustainability of MSMEs and

Cooperatives in South Africa. Without access to wider markets, many small enterprises struggle to scale, compete, and contribute fully to the country's economy.

The Market Expansion Workshop at the Durban Botanic Garden addresses these challenges by bringing together MSMEs, retailers, wholesalers, and other stakeholders to create opportunities for collaboration and growth. The programme highlights the importance of market readiness, compliance, and innovation as critical drivers for accessing and sustaining new market opportunities.



Let South Africa's beauty lift your stress this spring: A tree watcher's guide

BY: TAMRY ESIRI



Feeling stressed or overwhelmed? An article by Mayo Clinic's Sara Youngblood Gregory reveals that even brief moments spent connecting with nature, like noticing the trees on your way to the office, can significantly improve mental well-being. Exposure to nature can regulate the sympathetic nervous system in as little as five minutes.

"This means that we can get an almost immediate benefit from stepping outside and doing so on a recurrent basis may prevent cumulative effects from stress, which could mean a lower risk for chronic diseases, illnesses and mortality," says Mayo Clinic nurse practitioner Jodie M. Smith.

In addition to alleviating stress, Smith says research shows that exposure to nature can help those with chronic mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), making it easier to cope.

This spring is the perfect time to try tree watching, a refreshing, mindful activity to nourish both the mind and spirit.

How to Play

On your commute or during a midday break, pause and observe the trees around outside your office, along your route, or just beyond the parking lot. Notice colours, shapes, birds, or buds popping out. Take a few deep breaths and immerse yourself in the moment. Even a short 2–5 minute nature break can help reset your mindset and relieve tension.

On your watch, keep an eye out for some of South Africa's most popular and easy-to-spot trees this season:

1. Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

Blooming season: Mid-October to November.

Why it's special: Famous for turning Pretoria into a purple wonderland, with streets lined in lavender-coloured petals.

Look for: Lilac-purple flowers and petals along the pavement.

3. Wild Pear (*Dombeya rotundifolia*)

Blooming season: Late winter to early spring.

Why it's special: Snowy-white or pale pink blossoms before the leaves emerge.

Look for: Dense clusters of flowers creating a frosted appearance.

4. Fever Tree (*Vachellia xanthophloea*)

Blooming season: Spring to summer.

Why it's special: Striking yellow-green bark and delicate foliage, often found near water.

Look for: Pale yellow puffball flowers and smooth, lime-coloured trunks.

5. Proteas (*Protea* spp.)

Blooming season: Many species bloom from late winter through spring.

Why it's special: Our national flower and a symbol of resilience, proteas come in many forms, from the King Protea with its large pink bracts, to Pincushion Proteas in shades of orange and yellow.

Look for: Large, bold blooms with unique shapes and vibrant colours, often attracting sugarbirds.

Spring is short, but its colours and scents can leave a lasting mark on our mood. Make the most of the season by looking up, noticing the blooms, and letting nature's small wonders pull you out of the rush. Whether it's a street lined with jacarandas or a single protea in a garden, these moments can be reminders to slow down, reset, and carry a bit of spring's calm into the rest of your day.

Source:

<https://mcpres.mayoclinic.org/mental-health/the-mental-health-benefits-of-nature-spending-time-outdoors-to-refresh-your-mind/>



Comfort Zone gets much needed assistance

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA

Manlind Enterprises trading Comfort Zone Bed & Breakfast establishment in Fortgale, Mthatha is now up and comfortably running offering comfy world class service to its clientele in Mthatha.

Director Lindela Kenqa bought the rundown sleeping business and resuscitated it to life after securing a financial lifeline from Small Enterprise Development Financial Agency (SEDFA).

Their dream of owning a successful business came to fruition after they applied and secured a R12 million package comprising of a R8 million loan and a R4 million grant.

The 22 immaculate bedrooms offering now has secure water supply after they drilled a borehole in the premises to eliminate the erratic water supply from the local (KSD) municipality.

An electric fence and an electric gate were also installed, coupled with bedding offerings, a spacious lounge area, installation of DSTV powered televisions in every room and not water is now in abundance all day long.

With such a windfall. Comfort Zone is looking forward to a busy festive season and nope to add a few new personnel to complement the existing crew.



Rere's Nails and Beauty:

A Showcase of Entrepreneurial Spirit

BY: MOIRA MOGOMOTSI

In the heart of Kathu, a talented entrepreneur, Reitumetse Mokgalagadi, is making waves with her nail technician services at Rere's Nails and Beauty. This Women's Month special is an excellent opportunity to experience her exceptional skills and creativity. Stationed in the mall passage, Rere is dedicated to providing top-notch services, from gel nails to scrubs and pedicures.

Booking and Special Offer

To book an appointment, clients can reach out to Rere via WhatsApp or phone call at 076 143 5637. The Women's Month special runs from August 1-31, 2025, making it an ideal time to treat yourself or a loved one to some pampering.

A Passion for Beauty

Rere's journey into the world of beauty began with a passion for making women feel good and look beautiful. Despite initially studying engineering, she discovered her true calling in nail technology and decided to pursue her dreams. With her business located near Kathu Mall, Rere offers a range of services, including:

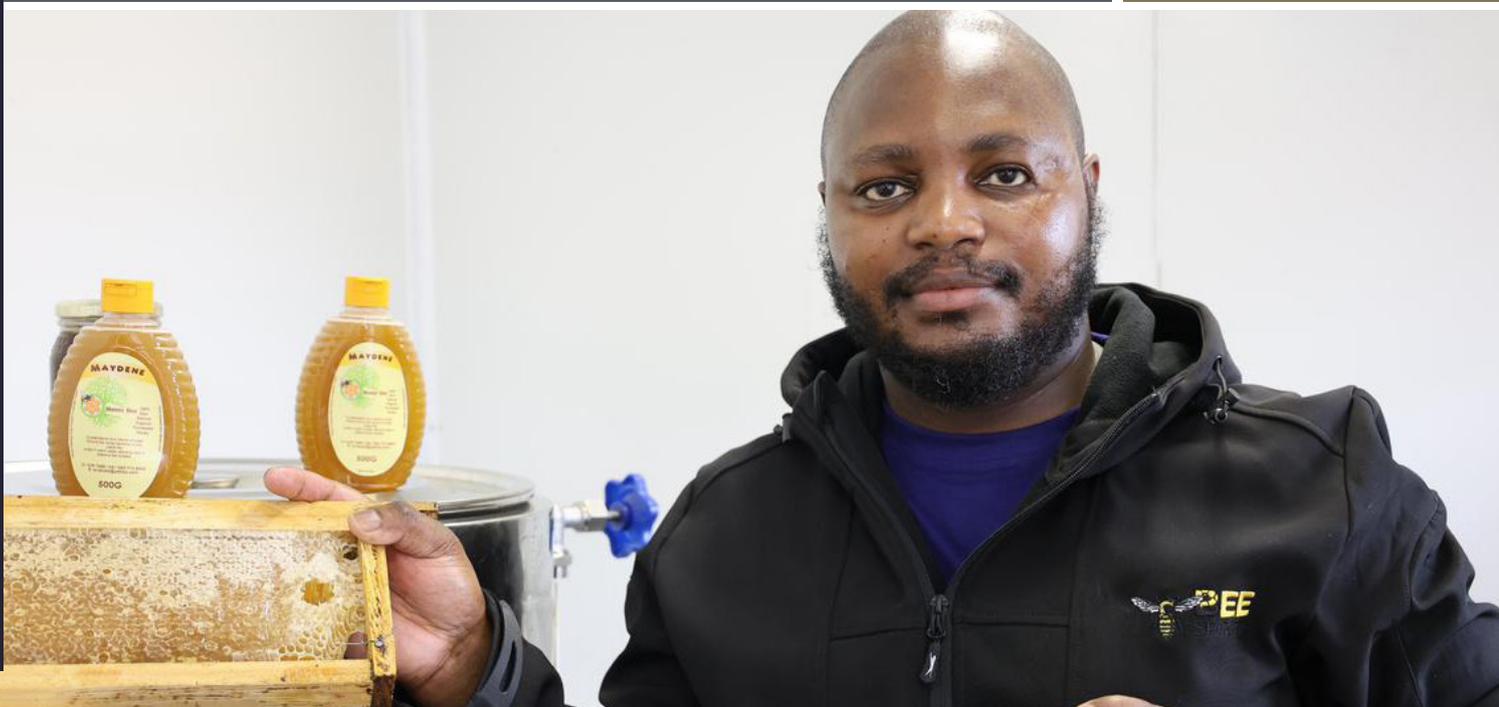
- Gel Nails: Starting at R200
- Gel Nails with Tips: R270
- Toe Nails: R100
- Scrub and Pedi: R250
- Buff and Shine for Gentlemen: R150

Entrepreneurial Spirit

Rere's success is a testament to her hard work, creativity, and excellent negotiation skills. As a multi-tasking entrepreneur, she efficiently manages her clients, ensuring a seamless experience for all. With her dedication to her craft and commitment to customer satisfaction, Rere's Nails and Beauty is an excellent choice for those seeking high-quality nail services in Kathu.

Address: 5038 Aalwyn Street, Kathu.





Co-operatives fosters skills development and employment opportunities for local residents

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA

Nzuzo Farming Pride Primary Co-operative Limited is a 100% black-owned entity that benefits numerous stakeholders by creating skills and employment opportunities within the local community, particularly in bee production and technical services. The Managing Director of the co-operative is Simthembile Nzuzo, who holds a Btech in Occupational Health and Safety and boasts extensive experience as an Expert Bookkeeper, Bookkeeping Consultant, and Manufacturer of Bookkeeping Equipment.

The Cooperative Limited is situated at 16555 Maydene Farm Location in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, approximately 5km from Mthatha CBD, located under King Sabata Dalindyebo local municipality in O.R Tambo district.

Nzuzo Farming Pride is a commercial beekeeping business, producing over 15,000 tons of honey annually, with more than 15 years of experience in beekeeping. The cooperative has been accredited as a Skills Developer by The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), ensuring credible and valid education and training in occupations and trades. This accreditation benefits beekeepers supplied with essential equipment, assisting them in meeting their skills development plans and targets, while contributing to SETA's targets and objectives.

Members of the local families recognize the importance of overcoming fears of poverty, violence, and crime to build a social environment

and trust within family and community groups, thereby developing and participating in the Nzuzo Farming Pride Primary Co-operative Limited project. The company operates in various areas, expanding its business to other municipalities and towns in the Eastern Cape, including Tsolo, Port St Johns Municipality, Hluleka, Libode, Coffee Bay, East London, Peddie, and Mthatha, with Mthatha serving as the central hub for honey processing, packaging, labelling, and storage.

The company has marked all bee hives with unique numbers for asset tracking, and their honey is labelled as Maydene Honeybee. The project objective is to increase the number of beekeepers in the province, conserve indigenous plant species, and maintain good biodiversity.

Nzuzo Farming Pride collaborates with Walter Sisulu University, providing educational sessions for final-year students in the faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, focusing on insect taxonomy and bee-environment relationships.

Nzuzo Farming Pride operates over 1000 bee hives with supers at a commercial level. The company is equipped with bee costumes, smokers, gloves, hive tools, queen excluders, and proper honey processing houses to store honey and bee equipment. Nzuzo Farming Pride has secured a market through various local and national retailers, including S&P Spar, Cup & Cakes, Food Lovers Market, Mayfair Hotel, and online marketing platforms.



Zims Trading Enterprise endeavours to enhance rural farming practices

BY: LUBABALO SIGONYELA

Zims Trading Enterprise (PTY) LTD is a livestock and grain company based in Mbuqe Mthatha. The business was registered in 2014 by Sithembele Madyibi, a 52-year-old black entrepreneur, who serves as the sole director.

The company specializes in grain crop production and livestock farming, including sheep, goats, pigs, and cattle. Currently, they have over 100 cattle, 75 sheep, and 65 goats. A signed letter of intent confirms that Elliot Brothers Actioners purchases 8-month-old calves annually from ZIMS TRADING (PTY) LTD at an average price of R7,500.

The company operates on leased 6 hectares of land. The normal planting seasons for Zims Trading are between October and December. They have expanded from planting 2 hectares to 6 hectares.

The livestock is kept on a 4-hectare family land. At the beginning of each season, they require a tractor with necessary implements, maize seed for 6 hectares, 36 fertilizer bags, 24 LAN bags, 60 liters of herbicides, and 20 liters of insecticides.

In a good year, the ploughed hectares yield approximately 700 bags of maize. The bags are sold to public markets and fruit and vegetable markets at R220-R250 per bag. Unsold maize is retained for livestock feeding. The business currently employs 10 staff members and hires an additional 5 temporary employees during the harvest season. The client has requested financial assistance of R730,000 for equipment acquisition and working capital to expand and modernize operations.

HAPPY Birthday TO YOU



OCTOBER 2025

01	Matlaila Lebogang	16	Sihlobo Madakile
02	Kubheka Bongekile	17	Ngwenya Zibuyile
04	Mokou Ndivhudzannyi	19	Gumede Sinenhlanhla
05	Masoga Mhlanganisi Mokumo Phemelo	20	Sithole Wezile
06	Dube Josphinah Hlabioa Tebogo	22	Gcasamba Cawekazi
07	Setloboko Mamookgo	24	Ngobese Nomfesane
08	Dlova Asive	25	Siluma Bongane
09	Kometsi-Mphahlele Matladi	27	Delwa Qinisile
10	Kunene Bazibonke Ndhlovu Nyeleti	30	Magaga Nolwando
12	Mogomotsi Moira	31	Rapopo Teboho
15	Kekana Elvis		

"HERE'S TO ANOTHER YEAR OF HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND SUCCESS".



small business
development

Department:
Small Business Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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